

NEWS RELEASE

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Project Safe Neighborhoods: Grand Jury Charges Two Kankakee Men with Possessing Gun After Felony Conviction

Peoria, IL- Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that a federal grand jury today charged two Kankakee men under the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative with possessing a firearm after being convicted of a felony. The charges against Michael E. Robinson, Jr., 29, and Deshaon T. Askew, 30, are the result of cooperative investigations by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Kankakee Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard N. Cox is prosecuting the cases.

The indictment charging Robinson alleges that he possessed a .25 caliber pistol in Kankakee on October 15, 2005. According to the indictment, Robinson allegedly has three prior felony convictions, including unlawful possession of a controlled substance in 1994; unlawful delivery of a controlled substance in 1998; and residential burglary in 2003.

The indictment charging Askew alleges he possessed a 20-gauge sawed-off shotgun on December 14, 2005, in Kankakee. The indictment includes four prior felony convictions against Askew including possession of firearms by a felon in 1994, possession of a stolen vehicle in 1993; and, two convictions for possession of a controlled substance, in 2000 and 2002.

If convicted of the offense, the maximum statutory penalty is 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. However, if either defendant is determined to be an Armed Career Criminal under the provisions of federal law, the penalty increases to a minimum of 15 years of imprisonment.

(More)

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Both men are currently in law enforcement custody and will be scheduled for arraignment in U.S. District Court in Urbana at a date to be determined by the U.S. District Clerk.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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